

now, it's been sitting there and is pretty ugly, and nobody does anything with it. It is close enough to downtown where it would be, people who are downtown, hanging out, it is a safe option for people, yet it is not so far from the residential areas that it would be impossible to get to.

Our facility would have a movie room, pool tables, a skate park, and vending machines to help pay for these things. The reason for the skate park that I think is a really good idea is we have a lot of skaters in Burlington, and there is no skate parks in Vermont. I have a friend, Josh, who was supposed to be here, but could not. He traveled to Montreal, travels like two and a half hours and pays \$15 to \$20 to go skating to ride a skateboard. And I think that, the town could charge \$5, which would help cover maintenance costs and things like that. And we can cut costs also by being indoors. You might think that indoors is more expensive, but with an outdoor facility you have to store all the ramps. You can't just leave them out.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Let me just jump in there. Damien, do you have something you wanted to add to that?

DAMIEN WYZGA: No.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Okay. You are here for company.

EWING FOX: I think this would allow kids to have a safe place to be after school, even in the winter, because it goes all the way through. We also have some safety requirements like helmets and safety gear, and legal waivers.

It will be expensive though, it won't be cheap, and will require the town's support, and Damien has some ideas on how to finance it.

DAMIEN WYZGA: To finance this endeavor, we are going to draw upon the city skate park fund. As far as I know, I think there is about \$60,000 in it. Once the center is open, we are going to maintain it with revenue from vending machines, video games, dollar movies, and a small entrance fee. We will also promote local skate shops in Burton. Burton has excelled in community outreach programs, including its CHILL program, which I was in. This is a program designed to give youth the chance to snowboard.

We believe that, to begin this program, we will require about \$100,000 to build the ramps, jumps and half pipes. This would also include the upkeep. We believe we will receive the support from the community at large, and companies like Burton, Original Sin, Cherry Bone, B Side, Snow School, Snow Board Attic, and the American Ski Corporation.

STATEMENT BY ABBY KRASNER REGARDING STUDENT ACTIVISM

ABBY KRASNER: I am presenting the need for government support for student activism and involvement in politics. This issue is of great importance, because we have the lowest voter turnout in any industrialized nation. Since the voting age is 18, the best time to start to engage people in our political system is in high school. Now, few 18-year-olds know enough about policy issues beyond the sex lives of their politicians.

Our involvement ensures a reversal in the trend of low voter turnout. If this generation started to be involved, our voter registration rates would increase as we got older. Soon almost everyone would have a sense of responsibility for the political and social state of our nation. Also, perhaps our idealism can counteract the cynicism of the older people, to put a positive slant on politics. If we become involved, the word "politics" might not just mean a spectator sport in which people are expected only to care about the winning and losing sides; it might become a word that connotes caring about other people and the condition of our society.

My experience shows that getting young people involved is much less difficult than is ordinarily supposed. I am the co-chair in Vermont for an organization called the International Student Activism Alliance, a nationwide group dedicated to helping students find a voice and express their concerns. In this role, I have discovered many students in the state and county who deeply care about the world around them. They simply lack the resources to connect with each other, and therefore often find it difficult to make a difference.

Since the student activism groups that exist have limited funding, they are unable to reach the number of students they would like to. I propose that state and/or national governments support activism through several methods, including funding. This student/congressional town meeting is a good first step. If every state could have a comparable meeting or conference put together by their Congressperson or other elected official, students around the country would have a forum to exchange their ideas.

The goal would be to involve as many students as possible. Local groups of students would meet more frequently to focus on what their involvement means to their community, state and country. The statewide coalition of groups created by the conference or meeting would communicate regularly. Delegates from the state group would come together in a national conference, where they would be able to share their opinions with people from around the country. Their lawmakers would be requested to meet with the group or with delegates privately, to advise them. This would provide a link to the political system, that would encourage the students to attempt to solve their problems through the system. Another way to connect students around the country is through electronic media. Funding from the state could allow for a central web site to be set up, an E-mail mailing list, or a national database that listed the names and issues of socially active youth around the country.

In all these efforts, we need the advice and support of our lawmakers. We are fledgling activists, and are often so unsure we can change anything that we don't attempt to. If every politician were like Bernie and supported youth involvement through involvements like this, the country would be invigorated by young activists. We need financial support to extend the research of organizations; but we also need moral support to disprove the myth of teen apathy to the world.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of full funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Federal support is necessary to ensure that broad access to the arts is possible for citizens of all economic backgrounds and all regions of the country. Today, arts agen-

cies in all 50 states and 6 territories receive federal funding through the NEA to support the arts. Prior to the creation of the NEA, few state arts councils awarded grants.

Arts funding in this country rests on the combined support of federal, state, and local public dollars, as well as private donations. Federal dollars are essential in leveraging other support. For example, in FY 1997, \$99.5 million in federal dollars was matched with \$280 million in state support and \$675 million in local funding.

Last week, the House Committee on Appropriations voted 31–27 to provide funding for the NEA. Now, the Republican majority is seeking to undermine the work of the Committee, and set back arts in this country by passing a rule that will allow NEA funding to be zeroed out.

Opponents of the NEA suggest there is little accountability at the agency. However, over the last several years, the NEA has made substantial changes to address Congressional concerns and also make it more responsive to the public.

Recently, six Members of Congress were added to the NEA advisory body, a new NEA Chairman was unanimously approved by the Senate, and a new grant award program was established to provide for a more equal distribution of arts funds to underserved states. In addition, the NEA also implemented changes in its grant award program to improve accountability by prohibiting the shifting of funds from one project to another.

The NEA has been responsive to concerns raised by Congress and the public. New attempts to cut funding to this agency are without merit. Given that last month the Supreme Court upheld the use by the NEA of "general standards of decency" in awarding grants, the current attacks on the NEA for funding controversial projects are unwarranted.

Over the last three decades, the NEA has substantially increased arts activity in every state in this country. Federal support is needed to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to discover and enrich their lives by experiencing the arts. I urge my colleagues to support full funding for the NEA.

SECRET SERVICE PRIVILEGE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a few observations about the Secret Service's position on a "Protective Function Privilege" that should exist between the President of the United States and his security detail.

In his ruling denying the Secret Service's request for a stay last week, Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist stated "in my view, the [Administration] * * * has not demonstrated that * * * enforcing subpoenas [in this case] * * * would cause irreparable harm". I beg to differ. Not only do I believe that there is irreparable harm here, but I also believe that the Secret Service's legal theory stands on firm footing. Furthermore, this decision may cause the President of the United States to push away his "protective envelope", and as a result, make him more vulnerable to assassination.